

Extension for teachers to take the TECAT test
(SCR 114 by Brooks/Delco)

BACKGROUND: HB 72, passed in 1984, required teachers to pass the Texas Examination of Current Administrators and Teachers (TECAT) a test of basic reading and writing skills, before June 30, 1986 to remain certified. The State Board of Education (SBOE) adopted a rule allowing teachers and administrators who were unable to take the TECAT by June 30 deadline to be employed on emergency basis for six months, or until the end of the school year, whichever came first.

DIGEST: SCR 114 would have requested the SBOE to amend its rule and allow teachers and administrators who were unable to take the TECAT by June 30, 1986 to be employed on an emergency basis for one school year, rather than six months.

GOVERNOR'S
REASON
FOR VETO:

The governor said the current SBOE rule allowing six months of emergency employment before taking the TECAT is sufficient. "I do not believe legislative intervention is needed."

AUTHOR'S
VIEW:

Sen. Chet Brooks said the only reason he could think of for the veto was that either the governor or his staff did not understand the problem the bill was meant to remedy. The senator said he had worked with the Texas Education Agency on SCR 114 to devise a reasonable approach to a problem that, while not widespread, is important for about 100 teachers and their school districts. The governor did not call him or TEA to discuss the issue.

Sen. Brooks said teachers who come from out-of-state often need more than six months to take the TECAT because they also must meet other requirements for a teaching certificate during that time. The bill's intent was to assist this small group of teachers. Under the current SBOE rule school districts have no choice but to fire or place on substitute status teachers who have not taken the TECAT within six months. School districts do not want to lose the teachers who are qualified but have not met Texas teaching requirements.